

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HALIFA 00150 171613Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-14 OES-07 DLOS-09
COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
USIA-15 /105 W
-----027861 171633Z /53

P R 171440Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2087 PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0150

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS PBOR PLOS CA US
SUBJECT: GEORGES BANK
REF: HALIFAX 0132

1. NS FISHERIES MINISTER DR DAN REID TOLD PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATURE MAR 16 THAT USG MAY HAVE "OUTFOXED" GOC
IN GEORGES BANK BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO
REID, THE USG, BY MAKING AN EXCESSIVE INITIAL CLAIM
(VIZ., TO THE WHOLE OF GEORGES BANK), LEFT ITSELF ROOM FOR
COMPROMISE AND FALLBACK. THE GOC S CLAIM TO AN
EQUIDISTANT LINE, HOWEVER, EMBRACES WITHIN IT ONLY THE
NORTHERN THIRD OF GEORGES BANK AND LEAVES NO ROOM FOR
COMPROMISE. THUS THE USG, SAID REID, CAN OFFER TO
MOVE ITS LINE A BIT SOUTHWARD, CLAIMING IT IS WILLING
TO COMPROMISE, AND ASK "WHAT ABOUT YOU CANADIANS?"

2. ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED ON FLOOR OF LEGISLATURE,
REID ALLEGEDLY SAID TO SOMEONE (REPORTED ON LOCAL
RADIO, MAR 17) THAT GOC BOUNDARY NEGOTIATOR
CADIEUX HAS APPROACHED HIM AND HAS ASKED WHETHER
NOVA SCOTIA GOVT WILL CONSIDER MODERATING ITS POSITION
OF BEING WILLING ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN EQUIDISTANT
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LINE. REID S REPLY TO THIS APPROACH NOT GIVEN.

3. REID ALSO TOLD PROVINCIAL LAWMAKERS MAR 16 THAT
"THE AMERICANS HAVE TAKEN AN AGGRESSIVE STAND AND
ARE TRYING TO CROWD US OUT OF THE BANK." THIS IS
BEING DONE, HE INDICATED, BY BRINGING UP SOME VESSELS
FROM THE CAROLINA SHRIMP FLEET AS WELL AS BY ADDITIONS

TO THE US FLEET ON THE BANK FROM NEW CONSTRUCTION.
MOREOVER, HE WARNED, THE USG THREAT OF NEW COUNTERVAILING
DUTIES ON CANADIAN FISH (HALIFAX 0108) MAY BE USED TO
"OFFSET NEGOTIATIONS".
MOORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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